

CLAIMS

1. Emulsion comprising an oily phase dispersed in an aqueous phase, characterized in that the globules of the oily phase have an average size of less than 20 microns, in that the oily phase constitutes at least 15% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion and in that the aqueous phase contains at least one copolymer consisting of a major fraction of monoolefinically unsaturated C₃-C₆ carboxylic acid monomer or its anhydride and a minor fraction of acrylic acid fatty-chain ester monomer, and in that it is free of surfactant.

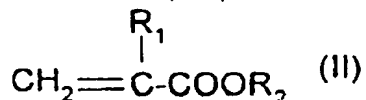
2. Emulsion according to Claim 1, characterized in that the amount of carboxylic acid monomer or of its anhydride in the copolymer ranges from 80 to 98% by weight and in that the amount of ester monomer ranges from 20 to 2% by weight, the percentages by weight being expressed relative to the total weight of the two monomers.

3. Emulsion according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the carboxylic acid monomer is a compound of formula (I):



in which R denotes hydrogen, a halogen, a hydroxyl group, a lactone group, a lactam group, a cyanogen group, a monovalent alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or a cycloaliphatic

group, and in that the ester monomer is a compound of formula (II):



in which R₁ is chosen from the group formed from

5 hydrogen, a methyl radical and an ethyl radical, and R₂ is a C₈-C₃₀ alkyl group.

4. Emulsion according to the *claim 3* ~~preceding~~

~~claim~~, characterized in that the carboxylic acid monomer is chosen from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid
10 and mixtures thereof, and in that the ester monomer is chosen from monomers of formula (II) in which R₁ is hydrogen or a methyl radical and R₂ is a C₁₀-C₂₂ alkyl group.

claim 1 5. Emulsion according to ~~any one of the~~
15 ~~preceding claims~~, characterized in that the copolymer is present in an amount ranging from 0.1 to 4% by weight and preferably from 0.1 to 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion.

claim 1 6. Emulsion according to ~~any one of the~~
20 ~~preceding claims~~, characterized in that the average size of the globules in the oily phase ranges from 0.5 to 15 microns.

claim 1 7. Emulsion according to ~~any one of the~~
25 ~~preceding claims~~, characterized in that the oily phase of the emulsion represents from 15 to 45% by weight and preferably from 20 to 30% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion.

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Claim 1
8. Emulsion according to ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~, characterized in that it constitutes
a cosmetic and/or dermatological composition.

Claim 1
5. 9. Emulsion according to ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~, characterized in that it contains at
least one additive chosen from hydrophilic active
agents, lipophilic active agents, preserving agents,
antioxidants, fragrances, solvents, fillers,
sunscreens, pigments, dyestuffs, basic agents, acidic
10 agents, lipid vesicles and gelling agents.

Claim 1
10. 10. Cosmetic use of the emulsion according
to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~, for treating, protecting,
caring for and/or cleansing the skin, mucous membranes
and/or the hair, and/or for making up the skin and/or
15 mucous membranes.

Claim 1
11. Use of the emulsion according to ~~any one~~
~~of Claims 1 to 9~~, for the manufacture of a
dermatological composition intended for treating and/or
protecting the skin, mucous membranes and/or the hair.

Claim 1
20 12. Process for manufacturing an emulsion as
defined in ~~Claims 1 to 9~~, which consists in
introducing, under pressure, the oily phase into the
aqueous phase containing the copolymer, through a
hydrophilic porous glass membrane with an average pore
25 size ranging from 0.1 to 5 μm and preferably from 0.3
to 3 μm , at a pressure greater than the critical
pressure.

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